It will not be in the interest of National Security to divulge the details of the modernization of Naval Fleet.

Deployment of defence forces personnel under UN peace keeping missions

1685. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indian defence forces personnel are deployed in foreign countries under UN peace keeping missions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and their terms of deputation;

(c) whether these personnel can be recalled on exigencies of work in the country; and

(d) if so, the terms and condition of such withdrawal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The requirement of Armed Forces personnel deployed in various United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions is dynamic in nature and keeps varying on a continuous basis. A total of 8612 personnel have been deployed in various UN missions, at present. The terms and conditions of the personnel deployed in these Missions are governed by the orders/instructions issued by the UN/Government in this regard.

(c) and (d) The personnel deployed in the UN Missions can be recalled in case of exigencies of work as provided in the terms and conditions regulating the deputation.

Army recruitment camp in Srinagar

1686. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been overwhelming response to a recent army recruitment camp in Srinagar by local youth aspiring to join the 'home and hearth' force, now under formation in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether more then 12,000 youths, including Kashmiri Pandits, lined up at the recruitment camp, to fill 80 posts in Territorial Army; and

(c) whether Government would consider deploying local forces to guard the LoC in Kargil area?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There has been a good response to the rally held at Srinagar for recruitment for the Territorial Army for the 'Home & Hearth' Battalion. The exact number of Kashmiri Pandits cannot be ascertained.

(c) The troops of Ladakh Scouts, a regular infantry regiment of the Indian Army, are already deployed in guarding the Line of Control.

Safety performance of IAF

1687. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Air Force is seeking international cooperation to improve its safety performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IAF was in a critical situation because of low fleet serviceability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Indian Air Force (IAF) regularly interacts with the Air Forces of other countries for mutual benefit through sharing of information on flight safety and associated matters. This is an ongoing process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Smuggling through coastline of India

1688. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent admission by Indian Navy Cheif in a recent news report that incidents of piracy, terrorism and smuggling of illegal goods are happening through coastline of India, and that such instances are difficult to detect;